

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A method for enhancing delivery of ~~delivering a nucleic acid molecule~~  $\alpha_1$  antitrypsin to a respiratory cell in a subject, ~~location in an animal, wherein said location is inaccessible to direct protein delivery~~, comprising the step of administering a positively charged liposome to said animal, wherein said positively charged liposome is associated with said a nucleic acid molecule encoding  $\alpha_1$  antitrypsin to the subject, ~~wherein said nucleic acid molecule is in operable association with a promoter~~ wherein a subject with a blood concentration of  $\alpha_1$  antitrypsin encoded by the nucleic acid displays an enhanced  $\alpha_1$  antitrypsin activity relative to a subject with a same blood level of  $\alpha_1$  antitrypsin administered as an exogenously-produced  $\alpha_1$  antitrypsin protein, thereby enhancing delivery of  $\alpha_1$  antitrypsin to a respiratory cell in the subject.

2-36. (canceled)

37. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 36, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encoding  $\alpha_1$  antitrypsin is associated with a positively charged liposome.

38. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 37, wherein the positively charged liposome is Lipofectin<sup>TM</sup>.

39. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 36, wherein the respiratory cell is a nasal mucosal cell or a lung epithelial cell.

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40. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 36, wherein the  $\alpha_1$  antitrypsin is human  $\alpha_1$  antitrypsin.

41. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 36, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encoding  $\alpha_1$  antitrypsin is a DNA molecule in operable association with a promoter.

42-53. (canceled)

54. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the subject has chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

55. (new) A method for inhibiting production of IL-8 by a respiratory cell in a subject, comprising administering a nucleic acid molecule encoding  $\alpha_1$  antitrypsin to the subject, thereby inhibiting production of IL-8 by a respiratory cell in the subject.

56. (new) The method of claim 55, wherein the subject has chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

57. (new) A method of treating chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in a subject, comprising administering a nucleic acid molecule encoding  $\alpha_1$  antitrypsin to the subject, thereby treating chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in the subject.